

## 2 Samuel 20 - Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

- Chapter 19 ended with David being restored to his rightful place as king after God gave him victory over Absalom's rebellion.
- Sadly, after Israel went from fighting against David to fighting over David, they will now launch another rebellion towards David.
- What we're about to see is sort of textbook when it comes to those who rebel whether it's in a family, in a church or in a nation.

1 And there happened to be there a rebel, whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew a trumpet, and said: "We have no share in David, Nor do we have inheritance in the son of Jesse; Every man to his tents, O Israel!" 2 So every man of Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king.

- It's interesting to note three specific components of Sheba's rebellion the first of which is he rejects David's authority over them.
- When he says, "we have no share in David," what he's saying is David had no right to rule over him or the ten tribes of Israel.
- For rebels, rejecting authority is of paramount importance right at the start. Without it there's no hope of a successful rebellion.

- The second component of his rebellion is the demeaning of David when he says they have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.
- What he's saying is, "who does David think he is." David's father Jesse was a nobody, and as such, David is also a nobody.
- This too is of paramount importance for rebels; such that, they have to tear those over them down in order to lift themselves up.

- The third component of Sheba's rebellion is the drawing of others by directing the men of Israel to desert David and follow him.
- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the most devastating things that can ever happen to a church, this has to be it.
- I can't begin to tell you how grateful I am to God that this precious church I have the privilege to pastor has never been split.

- I've seen what happens to a church as a new believer in the pew, an elder on the board, and as the pastor behind the pulpit.
- It's for this reason I'm so grateful to God and pray to God that we never have to experience the devastation of a church split.
- Be that as it may, we still have a full-blown rebellion on our hands here in our text tonight, and it's one we need to learn from.

- We must ask the question of why? Why does Sheba rebel? I'm of the belief he rebelled because he didn't get what he wanted.
- Because they didn't get there way in taking the credit for restoring David to the throne, they reject, they rebel and they recruit.
- I would suggest if you peel back all the layers of all rebellions, what you'll find is someone who in their pride didn't get the credit.

- Before we move on to verse three I would like to point something out in verse two where we're told that Judah remained loyal.
- The reason I point this out is because, thankfully, there are those who will remain loyal, and build up instead of tearing down.
- Rebels burn down in minutes that which takes years to build; rebels will never build anything they always destroy everything.

3 Now David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten women, his concubines whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in seclusion and supported them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, living in widowhood.

- This is one of those verses in the Bible that you have to ask yourself why God deemed it necessary to include in the narrative.
- At first read, it almost seems out of place in the sense that these ten concubines had nothing at all to do with Sheba's rebellion.
- Kindly allow me to share a thought I have concerning this; I believe that it speaks to the consequences of breaking God's law.

- Interestingly the number "10" in scripture is associated with the law. Notice David has to deal with 10 tribes and 10 concubines.
- Both the 10 tribes and the 10 concubines are a result of David's sin against God by way of David transgressing the law of God.
- Simply put, David has a dilemma on his hands in that his sin has not only complicated his life; it's ruined his concubines' life.

Adam Clarke of this says, "He could not well divorce them; he could not punish them, as they were not in the transgression; he could not more be familiar with them, because they had been defiled by his son; and to have married them to other men might have been dangerous to the state."

4 And the king said to Amasa, "Assemble the men of Judah for me within three days, and be present here yourself." 5 So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah. But he delayed longer than the set time which David had appointed him. 6 And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, lest he find for himself fortified cities, and escape us."

- It's important to remember that Amasa is the one that David gave Joab's position to, however, it seems he's not up to the job.
- This because he's unable to assemble the men of Judah together, not to mention that he couldn't do it in the time allotted him.
- This will prove to be a fatal mistake as we're about to see, and the lesson here is that of not laying hands on men too suddenly.

1 Timothy 5:17-22 (NIV) —21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism. 22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

7 So Joab's men, with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the mighty men, went out after him. And they went out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. 8 When they were at the large stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa came before them. Now Joab was dressed in battle armor; on it was a belt with a sword fastened in its sheath at his hips; and as he was going forward, it fell out. 9 Then Joab said to Amasa, "Are you in health, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. 10 But Amasa did not notice the sword that was in Joab's hand. And he struck him with it in the stomach, and his entrails poured out on the ground; and he did not strike him again. Thus he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri.

- This is one of the reasons that I'm personally not very fond of Joab. To me, he is a cunning killer and is not one to be trusted.
- I suppose it could be argued he's doing this in the best interest of the king and kingdom, but he doesn't need to do it this way.
- In the end, it will be Solomon, David's son, who at David's warning brings Joab's life to an end when he rebels against David.

11 Meanwhile one of Joab's men stood near Amasa, and said, "Whoever favors Joab and whoever is for David—follow Joab!" 12 But Amasa wallowed in his blood in the middle of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he moved Amasa from the highway to the field and threw a garment over him, when he saw that everyone who came upon him halted. 13 When he was removed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri. 14 And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth Maachah and all the Berites. So they were gathered together and also went after Sheba.

- I can't help but notice that Joab's men are seeking to reestablish Joab as David's military commander now that Amasa is dead.
- The reason I say that is because of verse 11, where they say, "Whoever favors Joab and whoever is for David – follow Joab."
- In other words, instead of saying, "follow David if you are for Joab," it's the other way around, "follow Joab if you are for David."

15 Then they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth Maachah; and they cast up a siege mound against the city, and it stood by the rampart. And all the people who were with Joab battered the wall to throw it down.

- Couple of thoughts here as it relates to what both Sheba does and what Joab does. First, Sheba is a coward as all rebels are.
- This is what rebels do; they hide behind and amongst innocent people because they are weak, and because they are cowards.
- Moreover, cowards could care less what happens to innocent people even if they're killed as long as they are okay themselves.

- By the way, Islamic terrorists who hide among innocent civilians and hide their weapons there as well are the worst cowards.
- They could care less about what happens to innocent people and have no regard for their lives as long as they save their lives.
- Again, this is textbook when it comes to rebellion, and it's right out of the playbook of the author of rebellion, the devil himself.

- Here's the second thought as it relates to what Joab does; actually, it's more what he doesn't do namely, consider the innocent.
- Notice he just starts battering the wall to throw it down in his quest to kill Sheba without giving any thought to innocent people.
- What this tells me is that Joab, true to form, is as merciless as he is ruthless. He too could care less about anyone but himself.

16 Then a wise woman cried out from the city, "Hear, hear! Please say to Joab, 'Come nearby, that I may speak with you.'" 17 When he had come near to her, the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Hear the words of your maidservant." And he answered, "I am listening." 18 So she spoke, saying, "They used to talk in former times, saying, 'They shall surely seek guidance at Abel,' and so they would end disputes. 19 I am among the peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?" 20 And Joab answered and said, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy! 21 That is not so. But a man from the mountains of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has raised his hand against the king, against David. Deliver him only, and I will depart from the city." So the woman said to Joab, "Watch, his head will be thrown to you over the wall." 22 Then the woman in her wisdom went to all the people. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. Then he blew a trumpet, and they withdrew from the city, every man to his tent. So Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem.

- Thank God for this wise woman. Would to God that there were more wise women and wise men like her in our world today.
- To me, she's the quintessential peacemaker, and what she in her wisdom did, is save the lives of countless innocent people.
- Furthermore, she has also, in her wisdom, meted out much needed justice for this rebellious man who brought much trouble.

23 And Joab was over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; 24 Adoram was in charge of revenue; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; 25 Sheva was scribe; Zadok and Abiathar were the priests; 26 and Ira the Jairite was a chief minister under David.

- The chapter ends with Joab finally achieving the aforementioned reestablishing of himself as David's chief military commander.
- It makes you wonder if this was the only thing Joab wanted all along, which is why he would kill anyone and everyone to get it.
- Perhaps we need look no further than to the book of James in order to understand that this is what the Joab's of this world do.

James 4:1–3 (NIV) — 1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.